

common between the frontal lobe and olfactory bulb. In the spinal cord, near the central canal, bleeding was frequent.

G. H. KIRBY (Ward's Island).

Journal de Psychologie, normale et pathologique

(Fifth Year, No. 2. March-April, 1908)

1. Inversion of Orientation or Ideational Allochiria. P. JANET.
2. The Mental Disease of Robert Schumann. DR. PASCAL.
3. Clinical Contribution to the Study of Dream Deliria. A. VIGOUROUX and P. JUQUELIER.

1. *Inversion of Orientation*.—The case reported by Janet was that of a woman, 29 years of age, who began to experience, immediately after her last confinement, a peculiar and intolerable inversion of the sense of orientation. There were no other subjective or objective symptoms of any sort. Whenever she went into or came out of a room, she had a strange and unconquerable feeling that she was doing the reverse. When riding in a carriage, it seemed to her that she ought to be going in the opposite direction to reach the desired destination. In spite of this feeling she never uttered the slightest protest to the driver of the carriage, for her reason kept telling her all the time that she was actually going in the proper direction. Notwithstanding the intensity of the inverted feeling when out walking, she never allowed it to mislead her. She kept the desired course by noting carefully the names of the streets and the order of objects familiar to her along the way.

Janet speaks of the phenomenon as a sort of psychic allochiria, and postulates four possible explanations, the last of which he deems the most plausible. The condition is not wholly unknown in the normal state, as witness the feeling that some people have when on a moving train that they are going backwards instead of forwards. One hypothesis attributes the phenomenon to a purely sensorial trouble, involving in some way the semicircular canals. In Janet's case this explanation is untenable in view of the fact that there were absolutely no sensory disorders of any sort. A second explanation associates the feeling with a genuine illusion. As against this view, however, it is to be noted that the inversion did not apply to objects along the course of the journey but to the end of it. The feeling was that she ought to be going in the opposite direction, but the right direction was maintained by following carefully the familiar objects along the way. The third possible hypothesis aligns the symptom with the feeling of strangeness so often complained of by neurasthenics and other psychoneurotics. It is possibly even related to that form of negativism, so elaborately studied by Janet and others, known as "the feeling of the already seen." The fourth, and Janet's most favored, explanation attributes the trouble to a form of psychic allochiria, not far removed from such manifestations as allosynesthesia, mirror-writing, etc.

2. *The Mental Disease of Schumann*.—Unlike some other writers who have studied the life and life-work of Robert Schumann the composer, Pascal sees no direct relationship between his genius and mental invalidism. In fact he maintains that the genius was here the normal man, struggling with the incubus of disease. Between the outbursts of the latter, the former revealed itself along normal artistic lines. The real

affliction of the composer was, according to Pascal, a constitutional psychasthenia in early life and a sensory form of general paralysis in later life. Of the latter disease he died in an asylum.

3. *A Study of Dream Deliria*.—This article cannot be well abstracted as it consists of elaborate and detailed reports of a number of cases of intoxication, with comments upon the forms of delirium manifested in each.

METTLER (Chicago).

Review of Neurology and Psychiatry.

(Vol. V. No. 10)

1. The Exact Determination of Areas of Altered Sensibility. WILFRED TROTTER, and H. MORRISTON DAVIES.

2. Case of Trigeminal Nevus, Associated with Epilepsy and Contralateral Hemiparesis. J. W. STRUTHERS.

1. *Determination of Altered Sensibility*.—The method suggested is that the patient himself explore the suspected area with his finger-tip and to mark where he feels lines of transition to occur, looking at the part and using any degree of lightness of touches which enables him to make the distinction. It is designated the "stroking method." Claimed advantages are that it avoids the troubles due to expectant attention; and introduces a relatively constant minimal pressure. Its advantages are most marked in the investigation of areas not entirely insensitive to cotton-wool, and in the analysis of such areas into districts of varying degrees of tactile change. The maximal area obtained by this method is sharply defined and contains within it all the sensory changes—pain, temperature, touch—produced by the nerve lesion. Comparative methods in six cases are given with illustrations.

2. *Case of Trigeminal Nevus*.—Emulating Cushing, Struthers operated and records negative findings.

(Vol. V. No. 11)

1. The Mechanism of the Plantar Reflex, with Especial Reference to the Phenomenon of Crossed Reflex. PHILIP COOMBS KNAPP.

2. Arterio-Sclerosis in Relation to Mental Disease. C. MACFIE CAMPBELL.

1. *The Mechanism of the Plantar Reflex*.—The writer assumes in his explanation of a crossed flexor reflex, that in some cases the peripheral sensory neurones are heteromeric, one process passing up on the same side of the cord to the bulbar nuclei, the other crossing over to the opposite anterior horn to the motor cells for the flexors of the great toe.

2. *Arterio-Sclerosis in Mental Disease*.—In some mental cases a cardio-vascular disorder seems to be the central element in the clinical and anatomical picture. Of these, an etiological grouping and analysis is desirable. Some have the depression type (melancholia, hypochondria, neurasthenia, etc.) as a basis; others are true conditions of dementia whose varying forms cannot as yet be differentiated. In some cases, the neurological picture is but slightly tinged with a mental element. In certain cases of epilepsy with onset late in life, the convulsions and general symptomatology are closely related to arterio-sclerosis.